Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : Mr. Bassett

DATE: 1/11/79

FROM : T. H. Bresson

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION-PRIVACY ACTS (FOIPA) RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO OLIVER BLOCK PATTERSON, JR.

Bresson #34

PURPOSE:

To advise of release of documents to Harold Weisberg pertaining to former St. Louis informant Oliver Block Patterson, Jr.

DETAILS:

Oliver Block Patterson, Jr. publicly admitted being a former informant of the FBI in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. He was also identified as a former Bureau informant by the House Committee on Assassinations and identified in numerous news articles as a former Bureau informant who was cooperating with the House Committee on Assassinations concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with his lawsuit for King assassination material (Harold Weisberg vs. U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Action 75-1996, U.S.D.C., D.C.) Weisberg requested material on Patterson and provided a waiver of Patterson's privacy rights plus an extensive tape interview with Patterson in which Patterson discussed his informant activities primarily with the Minutemen and National States Rights Party organizations in St. Louis.

REC-138 190-709-108

DE-24

5 JAN 16 1979

1 - Mr. Boynton
1 - Mr. Steel
1 - Mr. Bassett
1 - Mr. McCreight
1 - Mr. Bresson

HPB:vdp (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

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Memorandum to Mr. Bassett
Re: FOIPA Release of Documents
Pertaining to Oliver Block Patterson, Jr.

FOIPA Branch personnel held a conference with representatives of the Civil Division, FOIPA Litigation Section, DOJ, and Office of Privacy and Information Appeals, DOJ, and it was agreed, due to the public disclosures of Patterson's activities, to process and release portions of his Bureau files. A total of 93 pages of material on Patterson has been released. It includes material from two main files, a brief White Slave Traffic Act-kidnapping investigation and his informant file, plus several miscellaneous see references. The released material includes his informant activities which resulted in an association with Jerry Ray and John Ray, brothers of James Earl Ray. Material appearing in the St. Louis files relating to Patterson is currently being processed and subsequently will be released. His informant activity was from January, 1970, to August, 1971.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

APPROVED:
Director
Assoc. Dir.
[illegible]
Dep. AD Inv.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Training
Public Affs. Off.